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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,630	12/21/2001	Birgit Jung	1/1179	5076

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EXAMINER

BELYAVSKIY, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1644

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/029,630

Applicant(s)

JUNG ET AL

Examiner

Michail A. Belyavskyi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-22 and 25-41 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S AMENDMENT

1. Applicant's amendment, filed 02/23/05 is acknowledged.

Claims 1-41 are pending.

Claims 1-22 and 25-41 stand withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

Claims 23 and 24 are under consideration in the instant application.

In view of the amendment, filed 02/23/05 the following rejection remains:

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 37(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,307,035 as is evidenced by <http://users.rcn.com/jkimball.ma.ultranet/BiologyPages/I/Inflammation.html>, 2004 for the same reasons set forth in the previous Office Action, mailed on 08/25/04.

Applicant's arguments, filed 02/23/05 have been fully considered, but have not been found convincing.

Applicant asserts that chronic inflammatory airway disease is not an essential preliminary stage of lung cancer, thus lung cancer does not anticipate chronic inflammatory airway disease.

Contrary to Applicant's assertion as has been stated previously, US Patent '035 teaches a method for monitoring or diagnosis diseases associated with abnormal expression of UDD-protein (see entire document, Abstract and column 11 in particular).

US Patent '035 teaches UDD-protein of SEQ ID NO:18 that is 100 % identical to the claimed UDD-protein of SEQ ID NO: 4. US Patent '035 teaches that abnormal expression of UDD-protein associated with various diseases, including lung cancer (see overlapping columns 11 and 12 in particular).

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As is evidenced by <http://users.rcn.com/jkimball.ma.ultranet/BiologyPages/I/Inflammation.html>, 2004, chronic inflammatory airway diseases, including chronic bronchitis and COPD are frequent cause of lung cancer thus a method taught by US Patent '035 would inherently diagnose or monitor a chronic inflammatory airway disease.

Under the principles of inherency, if a prior art method, in its normal and usual operation, would necessarily perform the method claimed, then the method claimed will be considered to be anticipated by the prior art. When the prior art method is the same as a method described in the specification, it can be assumed the method will inherently perform the claimed process. See MPEP 2112.02.

The reference teaching anticipates the claimed invention.

The following new grounds of rejection is necessitated by the amendment filed 02/23/05

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112.

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claim 23 is indefinite and ambiguous in the recitation of UCH-L3 and HC3 proteins. Recitation of a proteins without providing SEQ ID NOs for the proteins is indefinite and ambiguous because different laboratories may have the same name for a different proteins.

It is also noted that the term "UDD-protein" is not an art recognized term but is an Applicant's own term for "ubiquitin-dependent degradation" protein (see page 7, line 10-15 in particular). Though Applicant can be his/her own lexicographer, it is suggested that the claim 23 be amended to recite the full term, i.e. ubiquitin-dependent degradation protein before first appearance of the term "UDD-protein".

In addition, Claim 23 being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted step is resolution step: it is unclear how to monitor a chronic inflammatory airway disease after steps (a) – (c) are completed.

Also an issue is that it is unclear what differences in the levels of UDD protein i.e. upregulation or downregulation indicates the presence of a chronic inflammatory airway disease.

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7. No claim is allowed.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

9 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michail Belyavskiy whose telephone number is 571/ 272-0840. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on 571/ 272-0841.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michail Belyavskiy, Ph.D.
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Technology Center 1600
April 1, 2005


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